

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 EB-07 /087 W

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R 090751Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6420

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 4350

GENEVA FOR DEP ASST SECTY SAUNDERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: GOM FAVORABLE BUT CIRCUMSPECT ON EGYPT-ISRAEL AGREEMENT

REF: RABAT 4219 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. KING HAS BEEN CAUTIOUSLY POSITIVE IN GOM'S SINGLE PUBLIC COMMENT ON EGYPT-ISRAEL AGREEMENT, IN WHICH HE ALSO RECALLED IMPORTANCE OF PALESTINIAN CAUSE. GOM PLACED TEMPORARY LID ON DISSATISFIED REACTION OF OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES, BUT OPPOSITION PRESS NOW CRITICISING AGREEMENT FREELY. GOM THUS TRYING TO KEEP ITS LINES OPEN TO RADICAL FRIENDS AS WELL. END SUMMARY

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2. GOM'S ONLY DIRECT, PUBLIC REACTION TO EGYPT-ISRAEL ACCORD

CAME IN KING HASSAN'S BRIEF, CAUTIOUSLY POSITIVE WORDS DURING CREDENTIALS CEREMONY FOR NEW EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR ABDERRAZAK SEPTEMBER 5 (FBIS LONDON 052145Z SEP 75). KING SAID "THERE IS NO DOUBT IN OUR OR OUR PEOPLE'S MINDS" THAT SADAT "COULD NEVER DO ANYTHING WHICH COULD BE REGARDED AS A BETRAYAL OF THE ARAB CAUSE." EVERY MOVE HAS POSITIVE AND NAGATIVE ASPECTS, KING ALSO NOTED, BUT EGYPTIAN MOVE WILL BE A BLESSING, PROVIDED PALESTINIAN CAUSE NOT FOREGOTTEN. (COMMENT: THESE REMARKS CONSISTENT WITH KING'S SUPPORT FOR SADAT AND U.S. PEACE EFFORTS IN PAST, ALTHOUGH SOMEWHAT MORE RESERVED THAN VIEWS SUPPLIED PRIVATELY TO US BY FONMINISTRY OFFICIALS, AS REPORTED REFTEL.)

3. GOM'S CAUTION WAS RELECTED EARLIER IN ITS PUBLIC TREATMENT OF ASHRAF MARWAN'S EXPLANATORY VISIT AND ITS HANDLING OF UNFAVORABLE OPPOSITION REACTION TO EMERGING EGYPT-ISRAEL ACCORD. SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS PUBLISHED WITHOUT COMMENT MARWAN'S STATEMENT THAT KING HAD EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN TOTAL SUPPORT FOR SADAT. SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS SUBSEQUENTLY CARRIED IN STRAIGHT FORWARD FASHION BOTH POSITIVE SAUDI AND NEGATIVE PLO AND SYRIAN ASSESSMENTS OF DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. OPPOSITION PRESS, PARTICULARLY ISTIQLAL AND COMMUNIST, MADE GAME EFFORT TO EXPRESS STRONG DISSATISFACTION WITH THE AGREEMENT DURING ITS NEGOTIATION, BUT WAS SYSTEMATICALLY CENSORED. NOW, WITH ACCORD SIGNED, OPPOSITION ORGANS APPARENTLY BEING ALLOWED TO VENT SPLEEN FREELY.

4. COMMENT: FUNDAMENTALLY POSITIVE ON U.S. AND EGYPTIAN PEACE MOVES, GOM HAS AT SAME TIME BEEN CAREFULLY CULTIVATING ITS TIES WITH PLO AND MORE RADICAL ARAB STATES INCLUDING LIBYA. RABAT HAS THUS PRESUMABLY GONE AS FAR ON PUBLIC RECORD AS IT FEELS IT CAN WITHOUT OVERLY ANTAGONIZING THE HARD-LINERS.
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